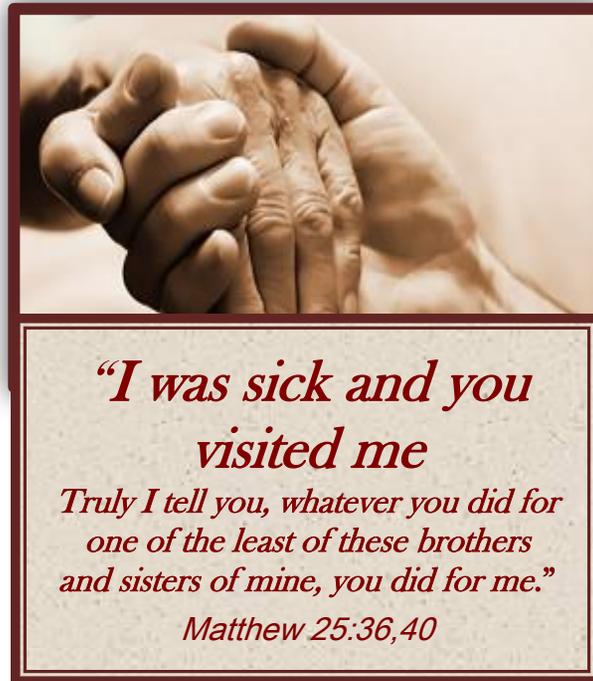


What's involved:

- ♥ Your compassion and caring
- ♥ A couple hours a week, once a month. Preferably Wednesday or Thursday morning, but could be flexible
- ♥ Criminal record check required
- ♥ This ministry visits Saanich Peninsula Hospital, Rest Haven Lodge, other care facilities and private homes bringing that "parish connection" while following each facility's or private home's parameters
- ♥ Orientation & Training available
- ♥ Making the connection between our faith community and the individual being visited and their family
- ♥ Length of the visit will depend on individual needs and time commitments



If you or someone you know has a need for this ministry, Please contact the Parish office
250-656-7433
spparish@shaw.ca



Saanich Peninsula Parish
A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
St Elizabeth's and Our Lady of Assumption

Ministry to the Sick and Shut-ins



The goal of the "Ministry of the Sick and Shut-ins" is to ensure that pastoral care is extended to those who are sick and homebound in our parish so that they feel "connected" to our faith community.



Do you feel called to share a few hours to visit the lonely and sick?

If the answer is YES,
Please contact:
Parish Office: 250-656-7433
spparish@shaw.ca
or
Fatima: 250-656-8863.
bfwarner@shaw.ca



Saanich Peninsula Parish
A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
St Elizabeth's and Our Lady of Assumption

This ministry is an outreach to members of our Parish who are homebound, hospitalized or incapacitated in some way. By bringing the presence of Christ on behalf of our faith community we are making a “Connection” This connection is important not just to the person who is being visited, but also to that person’s family. For most, this will mean the sharing of the Eucharist “bread of life”.

Also important is the “social connection”. This means that the visits need to be broad and lengthy enough in order to bring about that connection. Having volunteer ministers reaching out on behalf of the parish and dedicating their time and compassion is a beautiful way of being a presence of Christ in the midst of people. When Jesus cared for the sick and dying, the Lord extended God's mercy and love. We are His feet, hands and heart. Through the universal Church, as a community of faithful, we are called and invited to continue to carry out this ministry.

CHRIST HAS NO BODY ON EARTH BUT YOURS,
NO HANDS BUT YOURS,
NO FEET BUT YOURS.
Yours are the eyes through which Christ's
compassion for the world is to look out.
Yours are the feet with which
He is to go about doing good;
and yours are the hands with
which He is to bless us now.
~St. Teresa of Avila

Guidelines for Visiting:

- Introduce yourself as member of Saanich Peninsula Parish. Wear a name tag if one is available. Ask the person if they would like to receive Communion.
- Be joyful and greet the patient with a cheerful demeanor. Your disposition is important and a simple, bright smile can mean the world to someone who is ill.
- Be friendly and interested but be mindful of the person’s needs.
- Bring something to leave that makes a connection between the person and our faith community. Examples: bulletin, card, prayer, Diocesan Messenger, a handout from Development & Peace or an event in the parish, etc.
- Be aware of the signs outside the room or on the door. Sometimes they might be quarantined or require special assistance. Before entering a person’s room, check with a nurse or other staff member for guidance. This is both for the patient’s sake as well as yours.
- **Never enter a closed door** especially at hospitals. If there are doctors or nurses in with the person you are visiting or they are being tended to, you may need to come back later.
- You might want to knock if the door is closed and wait for a response.
- Be mindful of the person’s condition. If they are not able to take a whole host,

you may need to break the host into a smaller piece. The person might need a drink of water or special water to help them swallow the host but **be mindful of restrictions** - in particular **swallowing alerts**. Become aware of the alert codes for that particular location.

- If you enter a room and the patient is sleeping or might be gone for a procedure or test, you might leave a note so that they know that you have been there. If possible, try to go back after your other visits.
- In addition to the hosts, you should have with you a prayer or rite. Depending on the severity of the condition of the person you are visiting, you may need to adapt or shorten the rite to the basics. At a minimum, the Lord’s Prayer and the Lamb of God should always be said before receiving Communion. Over time, you will learn how to adjust to the circumstances.
- Remind them that we are praying for them at our Parish.

